

REMARKS

The Official Action of 24 April 2008 has been carefully considered and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended with the incorporation of the recitations formerly in claim 2 (now canceled). Claim 1 and dependent claims 6, 11 and 12 have also been amended to render the claims more definite, without narrowing the scope thereof, and thereby to remove the bases for the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, appearing on page 2 of the Official Action. In particular, the amendments make clear that the threaded shaft and the cable attached thereto are elements of the combination recited in dependent claims 6, 11 and 12, but not of claim 1. Claims 6, 11 and 12 thus further limit the subject matter recited in the claims from which they depend.

Claims 1, 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Bodin (US6443680). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Bodin discloses a coupling in which the threaded shaft is driven into a structure by engaging the cap 12 with an appropriate tool. The cap 12 engages the head 20 of the shaft 22 so that, upon rotation of the cap 12, the threaded shaft 22 is rotatably driven. The passage 18 is threaded to engage a hanger or other mounting structure.

As clearly explained in Bodin at column 4, lines 26 to 30, it is the cap 12 that is engaged by the tool not the head 20. This is in contrast to the claimed invention. With

reference to Figure 2 of the present application, the tool is inserted longitudinally of the passage 22 to engage the head 15. This is broadly defined in the last paragraph of amended claim 1 submitted herewith. The claimed invention has the head 15 engaged by the tool.

If figures 2a and 2b of Bodin are examined, it is clearly evident a tool cannot be inserted in the passage 18 to engage the hexagonal head 20 of the shaft 22. The head 20 is a snug fit in the recess 16 and therefore it is impossible for a tool to engage the head 20. It should also be noted that the top surface of the head 20 is smooth and therefore cannot be gripped. Accordingly there is a clear distinction between the present invention as defined in claim 1 and Bodin.

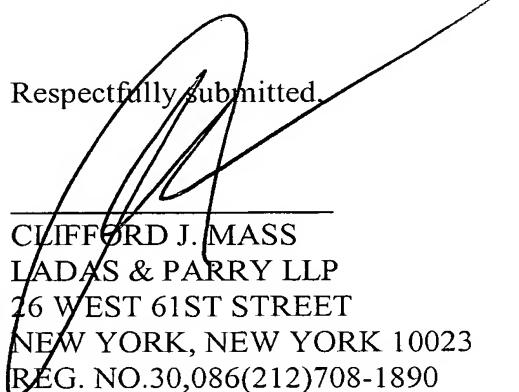
Claims 2, 7, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Bodin in view of Panasik (US6848346). Claims 6 and 10-13 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the aforementioned combination of references and further in view of Freedland. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

First of all, it should be noted that in Bodin the head 20 is intended to be engaged within the cap 12 when the cap 12 is being driven. A combination of this with Panasik fails to direct the skilled addressee to the claimed invention. In Panasik, and as best seen in Figure 9, the screw head 48 is of a hexagonal configuration and is to be received within the hexagonal shaped recess 50. Accordingly the cylindrical cap 30 is not intended to rotate relative to the head 48. A combination of these two references

therefore directs the skilled addressee to have the cap 30 rotate with the threaded fastener. This is in contrast to the present invention as defined in amended claim 1 in which the tool engaging portion is rotatable relative to the threaded rod.

Freedland (US6270304) fails to overcome the above deficiencies in respect of the combination of Bodin and Panasik. Freedland has many features not defined in amended claim 1. Freedland is merely a threaded fastener 105 that is threadably received within a threaded sleeve 37. It fails to overcome the deficiencies of the combination of the previously discussed references.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that all rejections and objections of record have been overcome and that the application is now in allowable form. An early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited and is believed to be fully warranted.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
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